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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 686

By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Officer Jerry Simmons of the Centerville Police Department for meritorious service and heroism.

WHEREAS, it is highly fitting and appropriate that the elected officials of the State of Tennessee should honor those exemplary citizens who have risked their lives to protect and preserve the public safety; and

WHEREAS, our country has been blessed with courageous law enforcement officers willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure the safety of our citizenry, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jerry Simmons is one such valiant Tennessean whose bravery and professionalism have served the citizens of Centerville and the good people of Tennessee as well; and

WHEREAS, as an officer of the law, Jerry Simmons unflinchingly faces danger on a daily basis and bravely puts himself in risky situations with life-or-death consequences, so that the people of Centerville can sleep at night, comfortable in the knowledge that they are safe in their homes; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 1999, Officer Jerry Simmons dutifully lived up to the policeman's creed, "to serve and protect," when he took part in the rescue of fellow police officers, Chief Deputy James "Hootie" Bentley and Detective Larry L. Holman, Jr., amid continuous gunfire from an assailant whose exact location was unknown; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Simmons was sent with fellow Centerville Police Officers Tim Buchanan and John Estes to a Blue Water home to provide support after Deputy Bentley and Detective Holman were shot by an unseen gunman; and

WHEREAS, Officer Simmons and his colleagues quickly located the wounded officers and transported them to an ambulance; and

WHEREAS, for their heroic efforts, Jerry Simmons and his colleagues have been awarded the Medal of Valor by Chief Roger Livengood; these are the first Medals of Valor to be awarded in the history of the Centerville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Livengood presented the medals to Officer Simmons and his colleagues during a town board meeting on January 11 of this year; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Simmons has served with courage and gallantry, and deserves proper recognition for his heroism, both as an officer of the Centerville Police Department and as a member of society; and

WHEREAS, Officer Simmons has performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to specially recognize this good and courageous man and police officer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Officer Jerry Simmons for his meritorious service with the Centerville Police Department, salute his recent heroism, and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.